

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Moshe Shloush et al.

Serial No.: 10/713,290

Filed: November 14, 2003

Title: ELECTRONIC BALLAST WITH
PROGRAMMABLE PROCESSOR

Examiner: Thuy V. Tran
571-272-1828

GAU: 2821

Confirmation No.: 1129

Attorney Docket No.: 006378.00002

AMENDMENT B

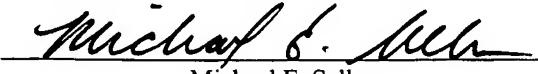
Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated August 23 and contains the following sections:

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this document and any document referred to as being attached therein is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in an envelope as "First Class Mail" addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 21, 2005.


Michael E. Sellers

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Reply to Office Action of August 23, 2005

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Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that Claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all limitation of the base claim. For the reasons given in the Remarks section of this response, Applicants respectfully decline to rewrite Claim 2 as invited.

By this response, Claim 9 is amended to properly depend from Claim 1 since Claim 6 has been canceled, and Claims 1, 18 and 28-33 are amended to more clearly define patentable aspects of the invention. No other claims are currently amended, no new claims are currently added, and no claims are currently canceled or withdrawn. Accordingly, Claims 1-5 and 7-33 are pending in the case. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested in light of the following amendments and remarks.

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Record of the Telephonic Interview Held November 22, 2005.

A. Brief Description of Exhibits

None.

B. Claims Discussed

1-5 and 7-33.

C. Prior Art Discussed

Caldeira et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,623,187)

Bogdan (U.S. Patent No. 6,040,661)

D. Principal Proposed Amendments Discussed

Amendments to claims 29 and 31 limiting the claims to an electronic ballast for operating “filamentless” discharge lamps were discussed. Amendments to the independent claims rejected over Caldeira et al. to include more details of the programmable processor were generally discussed.

E. General Thrust of Principal Arguments

The Applicant argued that Caldeira et al. does not disclose “a programmable processor operable to vary an operating parameter of the lamp supply circuit to enable operation of a plurality of lamp types or sizes” as set forth in the rejected claims. The Examiner argued that Applicant’s claim language was broad enough to cover the ballast disclosed by Caldeira et al. The Examiner indicated that Applicant’s claims would need to include more details of the programmable processor to overcome the rejection.

F. Other Pertinent Matters Discussed

Applicant indicated it would file a terminal disclaimer to overcome the double patenting rejection of claims 30 and 33.

G. General Results/Outcome

It was agreed that the amendments to claims 29 and 31 specifying a “filamentless” discharge lamp were sufficient to overcome the §102 rejection over Bogdan. No agreement was reached as to allowable claim language that would overcome the rejections based on Caldeira et al. The Examiner indicated that more details of the

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programmable processor would be required to overcome the Caldeira at al. rejections.